

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are being amended. No new matter has been introduced. The support for the amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0014] of the specification.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15, 16 and 19-20

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-11, 15, 16 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kawahara (JP404301976) in view of Inoue (JP08-181958) and Maeng (U.S. patent No. 5,959,667). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of Applicants' amendments to independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 and further in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended to recite a feature of the invention, wherein the meeting capture controller provides at least a portion of the sensed activity information to the operator to facilitate the selection of the camera selection and the camera angle selection by the operator. These claims have also been clarified that the sensor determining the sensed activity information is different from the at least one camera. None of the references cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination teach or suggest the aforesaid features of the claimed invention.

Specifically, the system of Kawahara is entirely automatic and does not display any sensed activity information to the operator, see Kawahara, Abstract. While the system of Inoue does display pre-set image pickup conditions, these conditions are created by the user and are not based on sensed activity information determined from a sensor different from the camera itself, as recited in the amended claims 1, 8, 15 and 16, see Inoue, paragraph [0007]. Thus, the system of Inoue does not display, for selection by an operator, at least one of a suggested camera

selection and a suggested camera angle selection based on the sensed activity information, the stored object position information and the stored rule information and does not provide at least a portion of the sensed activity information to the operator, the sensed activity information being determined using a sensor different from the camera itself, as recited in the amended claims 1, 8, 15 and 16. The last cited reference, Maeng, also does not display any sensed activity information to the operator. Thus, Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed displaying, for selection by an operator, at least one of a suggested camera selection and a suggested camera angle selection based on the sensed activity information, the stored object position information and the stored rule information and do not provide at least a portion of the sensed activity information to the operator to facilitate the selection of the camera selection and the camera angle selection, the sensed activity information being determined using a sensor different from the camera itself, as recited in the amended claims 1, 8, 15 and 16. for this reason, the amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 are patentable over the combination of Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng.

Moreover, as was argued in the Response to Office Action filed on May 17, 2007, Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng fail to teach or suggest storing both (1) object position information and (2) rule information. Specifically, Kawahar uses the same camera rotating angle to identify both the microphone position and speaker position. Therefore, the only variable that the system of Kawahar stores is the detected angles $\Phi 1 - \Phi n$. Thus, (1) the position of microphone and (2) camera rotation angle to track the speaker are the same in Kawahar and Kawahar does not teach or suggest separate (1) object position information and (2) rule information. In the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to read two separately claimed elements: (1) object position information and (2) rule information on a single stored angle $\Phi 1 - \Phi n$ of Kawahar. Applicants

respectfully submit that this is improper. Moreover, Inoue and Maeng do not remedy the aforesaid deficiency of Kawahara and also fail to teach or suggest storing (1) object position information and (2) rule information. Thus, Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng fail to teach or suggest the claimed stored object position information and stored rule information, and claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are patentable for this additional reason as well.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 2-4, 9-11 and 19-20, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the references used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendments of the parent claims 1 and 8 and that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon the patentable independent claims 1 and 8.

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13 and 17

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 6, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kawahara (JP404301976) in view of Inoue (JP08-181958) and Maeng (U.S. patent No. 5,959,667) and further in view of Kikuchi et al. (JP363142779A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of Applicants' amendments to independent claims 1, 8 and 17 and further in view of the following arguments.

With respect to the rejection of claim 17, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim has been amended similarly to claims 1, 18, 15 and 16 and that claim 17 is patentable over Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kikuchi et al. at least for the reasons stated above with respect to patentability of claims 1, 8, 15 and 16. Specifically, Kikuchi et al. fails to remedy the above-identified deficiencies of Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng. Thus, claim 17 is also patentable over the combination of Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kikuchi et al.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 5, 6, 12 and 13, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kikuchi et al., used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendments of the parent claims 1 and 8 and that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon the patentable independent claims 1 and 8.

Claims 7, 14 and 18

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kawahara (JP404301976) in view of Inoue (JP08-181958) and Maeng (U.S. patent No. 5,959,667) and further in view of Kishimoto (JP410282564A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of Applicants' amendments to independent claims 1, 8 and 18 and further in view of the following arguments.

With respect to the rejection of claim 18, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim has been amended similarly to claims 1, 18, 15 and 16 and that claim 18 is patentable over Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kishimoto at least for the reasons stated above with respect to patentability of claims 1, 8, 15 and 16. Specifically, Kishimoto fails to remedy the above-identified deficiencies of Kawahara, Inoue and Maeng. Thus, claim 18 is also patentable over the combination of Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kishimoto.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 7 and 14, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Kawahara, Inoue, Maeng and Kishimoto, used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendments of the parent claims 1 and 8 and that

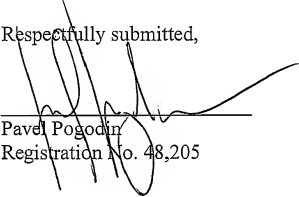
these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon the patentable independent claims 1 and 8.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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